

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-18 are pending. Claims 1-18 stand rejected.

Section 112 Rejections:

Claims 9 and 10 have now been corrected by deleting the phrase "lacks antecedent".

Section 103 Rejections:

Independent claims 1 and 12 have been rejected as being obvious in view of Burger. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is overcome for the reasons set forth below.

Amended claim 1 now includes features which are not suggested by the cited reference, namely:

- (c) means for reducing a total area of the exiting light bundles;
- wherein means for reducing the total area of the exiting light bundles includes **first and second sets of reflective optical flats, arranged sequentially in space between the array of lens elements and the image, for sequentially compacting the exiting light bundles, initially in a first direction only and next in a second direction only, the second direction perpendicular to the first direction.**

Basis for amended claim 1 may be found, for example, in the specification at page 6, lines 3-15, and as shown in FIG. 2. As shown, exiting light bundles 32 from lens elements 24 are reduced into an area much smaller than the size of array 26. In one embodiment of the invention, this reduction is a two step process that compacts exiting light bundles 32 from lens element 24 in the horizontal direction and the vertical direction. Light 38 is first passed through horizontal optical volumetric reducing process (OVRP) 40, then light bundles 42 exiting the horizontal OVRP 40 are passed through vertical OVRP 44. Accordingly, amended claim 1 now recites that the **first and second sets of reflective optical flats are arranged sequentially** and spaced between the array of lens elements and the image. Such arrangement advantageously provides **sequential compacting of the exiting light bundles, initially in a first direction and secondly in a second direction, where the second direction is perpendicular to the first direction.**

Burger discloses in FIG. 26, a multiple aperture imaging system that includes an array of lens elements for capturing light and reducing a diameter of the exiting light bundles. The Office Action interprets the diameter of the light beam entering the lens elements as being larger than the diameter of the light bundles exiting the lens elements. Burger, however, does **not** suggest reducing the total area of the exiting light bundles by providing **first and second sets of reflective optical flats, wherein these optical flats are arranged sequentially and spaced between the array of lens elements and the image.** Furthermore, Burger does **not** suggest that **these optical flats compact the exiting light bundles, initially in a first direction only, and next in a second direction only.** Furthermore, Burger does **not** suggest that **these first and second directions are perpendicular to each other.**

Favorable reconsideration is requested for amended claim 1.

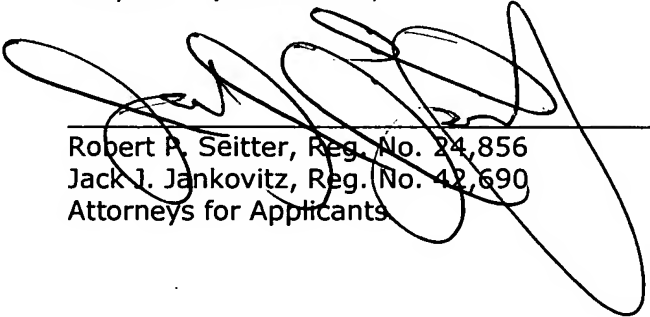
Although not the same, claim 12 has been amended to include features similar to amended claim 1. Amended claim 12 is, therefore, not subject to rejection in view of Burger for the same reasons set forth for amended claim 1.

Claims 2-11 and 13-18 depend, respectively, from amended claim 1 and amended claim 12. These claims are, therefore, not subject to rejection in view of the cited reference for at least the same reasons set forth for amended claim 1.

Conclusion

Claims 1-18 are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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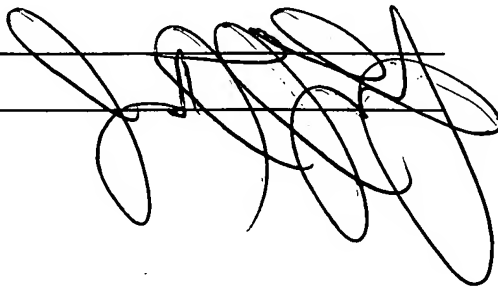
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